

Appl. No. 10/611,758
Amdt. Dated March 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 2.

The sheet which includes Fig. 2 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. The designation Prior Art has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Change

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner for acknowledging receipt of foreign priority document, Japanese Application No. JP2002-193225, that has been submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 and/or PCT Rule 17.2(a).

Applicant has amended the attached drawings for Figure 2 to include the designation of "Prior Art" as required by MPEP §608.02(g).

Claims 5 -8 have been added in order to claim further subject matter as disclosed in the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Examiner has rejected these claims in view of the cited prior art reference of *Judge et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,174). The *Judge* reference is directed to "a magnetic tape recording method for reading recorded information that compensates for track pitch changes to the magnetic tape." (Column 1, lines 7 – 10). *Judge* teaches the use of one or more servo-tracks (Sn) disposed on an outermost section along an entire length of a magnetic tape 12 for continuously adjusting a single read-head structure 22 in order to constantly re-align the read gaps with the band of tracks. (See Column 2, lines 38 – 63). However, such a device has significant disadvantages as compared to Applicant's currently claimed invention. Namely, because the servo-tracks are outlaid across the entire length of the tape separate from the recording tracks, a significant amount of space for additional data tracks is lost. Additionally, the reading of the data tracks on the first few lengths of tape may

not be possible until enough servo-track information is read from the outer-tracks in order to align the heads accurately on the data tracks between the servo-tracks.

Applicant's invention provides for an improved multi-channel head position controlling apparatus that overcomes the shortcomings of the prior art. As disclosed in claims 1 and 4, Applicant's invention provides for a separate multi-channel detecting head placed upstream from the multi-channel reading head and in communication with the multi-channel reading head such that the reading head can be re-positioned well before valid data on the magnetic tape arrives at the multi-channel read head. *Judge* fails to teach or suggest such a device. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, and place claims 1 and 4 in condition for allowance.

In regard to claims 2 and 3, Applicant submits that for at least the reasons that claim 1 is in condition for allowance, claims 2 and 3 are also in condition for allowance.

In regard to claims 5 and 7, Applicant submits that *Judge* fails to teach or suggest the use of a servo-control portion of the tape that is comprised of at least three tracks. The use of more at least three tracks and more than two read heads on the detecting section to read and adjust the positioning of the multi-channel read head improves the performance and accuracy of the device.

In regard to claims 6 and 8, Applicant submits that *Judge* also fails to teach or suggest the use of a servo-control portion of the tape that is comprised of all of the available tracks at a beginning portion of the tape. Such a method and device allows remaining portions of the

tape to utilize the full width of the tape for data tracks, while still allowing for the re-positioning of the multi-channel read head due to changes in track pitch of the tape.

Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

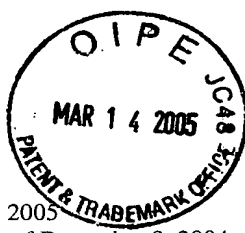
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1794.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/9/05


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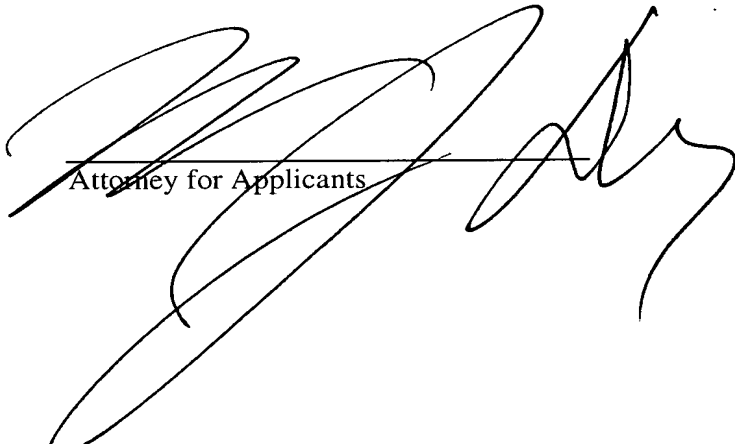


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FIG. 2
Prior Art

